REMARKS

The Office Action of July 12, 2004 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the specification and claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 were rejected as being indefinite. The claims have been amended and are now believed to be definite. With respect to the observation about the "decorrelating" step, since it is applied to the marking signal that is used to generate the final output signal, the results of the step are in fact used. Similarly, the results of the "linear feedback shift register" are also used.

Claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-28 and 30-32 were rejected as being unpatentable over applicant's US Patent 6,631,390 in view of Weiss. The rejection states in part:

> It would have been obvious...to combine Weiss feature [of a linear feedback shift register] in independent claims 10, 17, 18 and 32-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,390, thereby making the claimed invention, because the prposed device is a random number generator having a 'linear feedback register' feature for 'decorrelating' the marking signal as claimed."

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Only the applicant's own prior patent teaches the use of a marking signal as claimed—Weiss does not. Moreover, neither applicant's own prior patent nor Weiss teaches or suggests the need to decorrelate such a marking signal with noise. The assertion of obviousness must therefore fail.

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Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-14, 16-19, 24-26 and 31 were rejected as being unpatentable over LeQuere in view of Weiss. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

As noted previously, Weiss does not teach the use of a marking signal as claimed. Nor does LeQuere teach the use of such a marking signal. Accordingly, the claims are believed to patentably define over the cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-33 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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